

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-25 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 13-14, and 16 have been amended, claims 2, 8-12, 19-20, 22, and 25 have been cancelled and claims 26-28 have been added to this application.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure wherein a first coating layer having dispersed therein microcapsules with a visualizing liquid sealed therein is formed on the surface of the structure and when a crack is developed in said structure and propagated to said coating layer, the microcapsules dispersed in said coating layer are ruptured and said visualizing liquid flows out from the ruptured microcapsules and reaches the surface of the coating layer along the crack in the coating layer, thereby making it possible to detect the occurrence of the crack in said structure, wherein at least one second coating layer not containing the microcapsules is formed over said first coating layer with the microcapsules dispersed therein, and said second coating layer being transparent and having an outermost layer ~~flexible enough to be prevented from being cracked even upon cracking in the first coating layer~~ capable of elongating at least seventeen times the amount of elongation of any other coating layer in said structure.
2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to claim 1, wherein said visualizing liquid sealed in said microcapsules contains as principal components a nigrosine compound and a solvent in a weight ratio of the nigrosine compound to the solvent in the range of 1:55 to 1:0.37.

4. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspecting of a crack in a structure according to claim 1, wherein an adhesive strength under shear between the outermost layer in said second coating layer and the immediately underlying coating layer is not higher than 1 MPa.

5. (Currently Amended) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 1, wherein said second coating layer comprises ~~a colored opaque~~ an opaquely colored intermediate layer and a transparent outermost layer.

6. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 1, wherein said structure is a metallic structure.

7. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure wherein a coating layer having dispersed therein microcapsules with a visualizing liquid sealed therein is formed on the surface of the structure and when a crack is developed in said structure and propagated to said coating layer, the microcapsules dispersed in said coating layer are ruptured and said visualizing liquid flows out from the ruptured microcapsules and reaches the surface of the coating layer along the crack in the coating layer, thereby making it possible to detect the occurrence of the crack in said structure, wherein said visualizing liquid sealed in said microcapsules contains as principal components a nigrosine compound and a solvent in a weight ratio of the nigrosine compound to the solvent in the range 1:55 to 1:0.37.

Claims 8-12 (Cancelled).

13. (Currently Amended) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 3, wherein said second coating layer comprises an opaquely colored ~~a colored opaque~~ intermediate layer and a transparent outermost layer.

14. (Currently Amended) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 4, wherein said second coating layer comprises an opaquely colored ~~a colored opaque~~ intermediate layer and a transparent outermost layer.

15. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 14, wherein said structure is a metallic structure.

16. (Currently Amended) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 1 2, wherein said structure is a metallic structure.

17. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 3, wherein said structure is a metallic structure.

18. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 4, wherein said structure is a metallic structure.

Claims 19-20 (Cancelled).

21. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 1, wherein said first coating layer comprises an epoxy, urethane, acryl, nitrocellulose, silicone or modified silicone resin.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 1, wherein the second coating layer comprises a solvent-diluted rubbery coating material or a fluid composition containing at least one resin

selected from the group consisting of epoxy resin, urethane resin, acrylic resin, silicon resin, or copolymer rubber.

24. (Previously Presented) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure according to Claim 23 comprising the solvent-diluted rubbery coating material, wherein the solvent-diluted rubbery coating material is polyisobutylene rubber or styrene-butylene copolymer rubber.

25. (Cancelled).

26. (New) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure wherein a first coating layer having dispersed therein microcapsules with a visualizing liquid sealed therein is formed on the surface of the structure and when a crack is developed in said structure and propagated to said coating layer, the microcapsules dispersed in said coating layer are ruptured and said visualizing liquid flows out from the ruptured microcapsules and reaches the surface of the coating layer along the crack in the coating layer, thereby making it possible to detect the occurrence of the crack in said structure, wherein at least one second coating layer not containing the microcapsules is formed over said first coating layer with the microcapsules dispersed therein, and said second coating layer being transparent and having an outermost layer flexible enough to be prevented from being cracked even upon cracking in the first coating layer, said first coating layer comprising an epoxy resin.

27. (New) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure wherein a coating layer having dispersed therein microcapsules with a visualizing liquid sealed therein is formed on the surface of the structure and when a crack is developed in said structure and propagated to said coating layer, the microcapsules dispersed in said

coating layer are ruptured and said visualizing liquid flows out from the ruptured microcapsules and reaches the surface of the coating layer along the crack in the coating layer, thereby making it possible to detect the occurrence of the crack in said structure, wherein at least one second coating layer not containing the microcapsules is formed over said first coating layer with the microcapsules dispersed therein, and said second coating layer comprises polyisobutylene rubber or styrene-butylene copolymer rubber is transparent and has an outermost layer flexible enough to be prevented from being cracked even upon cracking in the first coating layer.

28. (New) A coating for the inspection of a crack in a structure wherein a first coating layer having dispersed therein microcapsules with a visualizing liquid sealed therein is formed on the surface of the structure and when a crack is developed in said structure and propagated to said coating layer, the microcapsules dispersed in said coating layer are ruptured and said visualizing liquid flows out from the ruptured microcapsules and reaches the surface of the coating layer along the crack in the coating layer, thereby making it possible to detect the occurrence of the crack in said structure, wherein at least one second coating layer not containing the microcapsules is formed over said first coating layer with the microcapsules dispersed therein, and said second coating layer being transparent and having an outermost layer flexible enough to be prevented from being cracked even upon cracking in the first coating layer wherein said second coating layer comprises an opaquely colored intermediate layer and a transparent outermost layer and said intermediate layer comprises at least one resin selected from the group consisting of an epoxy resin, urethane resin, acrylic resin, silicone resin and modified silicone resin.